great a size, not only of a central tower, the usual crown of our large churches, but of transepts in any form. In this respect it is unique among the cathedrals of South Britain, and has but few parallels among churches of equal size, even when not designed as episcopal sees, as the present Cathedral of Manchester, Dorchester Abbey, Boston, and St. Michael's, Coventry. And even among these, the distinction of the several parts of the church is generally more strongly marked than at Llandaff, where there is no constructive difference whatever between nave and choir, the only perceptible external change in the main body of the fabric being between the choir and the presbytery, and that consisting only in the different arrangements of the clerestory."

The condition into which the building has fallen is melancholy:—

"The main body of the fabric, as seen at present, appears one mass of hopeless confusion; the hideous structure of the last century which acts as the choir rising in strange contrast to the venerable ruins to the west of it. This latter portion of the church is not simply unroofed, but both the external walls and the arcades are very much mutilated. The former, by dint of patching, present a continuous circuit, though not to their full height: within the piers and arches are perfect, except the arches nearest to the present west front (1), which have been apparently mutilated to make way for that precious monument of the taste of a century back. Of the clerestory only a small fragment remains in a single bay, but fortunately enough to reconstruct its design."

Mr. Prichard is the architect engaged upon the work of restoration, which is gradually advancing from the East end. The Lady Chapel is completed, and is the part now used for service. The writer objects to the low roof which has been put upon it.

The description of roof with which the nave was originally covered is amongst the doubtful points. Mr. Freeman says:—

"There can be little doubt but that this part of the cathedral was originally intended to be covered by a flat ceiling, a feature more common in Romanesque and early Gothic churches than is usually supposed. This is shown by the roof-shafts, which are continued up to the summit of the masonry, instead of being terminated much lower down, as they must have done had vaulting of the ordinary kind been intended. And that these shafts were designed to carry a flat ceiling, and not an open or canted timber roof, or a barrel vault, appears from the internal view of the west end, where the ledge for the ceiling to rest upon is distinctly visible, and while the masonry below is of ashlar, that above, which would have been concealed by the ceiling, is of rubble. This arrangement we cannot conceive coexisting with any other form of internal covering."

We should require some stronger evidence of this than we find in Mr. Freeman's pages before we could assent to the proposition.

Miscellanea.

Statue of Wallace.—The Edinburgh City Council have unanimously agreed to refer a request by Mr. Patrie Park for an area in which to exhibit his model of Wallace, to the treasurer's committee, with powers. The main purpose of the exhibition is to form the nucleus of a national fund for a monument to the Scottish hero. Mr. Hill, in seconding the motion for leave, said that "those who had visited the artist's studio must have been impressed with the simplicity and grandeur of the design. It was a work of great power, and a fitting tribute to the memory of that hero who struggled for their nation's independence, and whose warlike expeditions formed the romance of their earliest associations. The colossal figure stood, without its pedestal, fifteen feet high, and from nine to ten tons of clay had been used in its erection, every particle of which had been carried to its position by the artist himself. Mr. Park had now the satisfaction of seeing his model completed, and the additional satisfaction of having obtained a ready response from the public in the shape of subscriptions for its preservation, and it now remained for the Council to do what lay in their power to enable him to carry out his design in the erection of a statue in more durable materials than clay and plaster." Sir William Wallace appears to be a subject of general interest in Scotland at the present moment, and doubtless the object in view will be greatly promoted by the exhibition. A Scottish contemporary, by the way, points out Mr. Baillie Cochrane, M.P., as the chief representative of the family of Wallace, a circumstance which reminds us that we meant to have stated, in speaking of Miss Wallace's new inventions in decorative glass, that this lady is said to be a lineal descendant from Sir William's family.

Progress of St. George's Hall, Liverpool.—The interior of this building is at length so far advanced towards completion as to enable a visitor to form something like an adequate idea of its effect and proportions when finished. The bulk of the heavy work throughout is already nearly done; and the decorations, plastering, &c., are being rapidly proceeded with. The *Liverpool Standard* (from which we take the following particulars) says that "from its horse-shoe shape, and the arched form of the roof, we feel satisfied that its acoustic properties will be excelled by no building in the country devoted to musical performances." If these be the only grounds for the opinion, we must interpolate, it is worth nothing. The space underneath the Concert-hall is devoted to the Nisi Prius Court, which is rapidly progressing. We fear it will be found that proper amplitude of dimensions has been sacrificed by giving too great space for barristers' rooms, magistrates' rooms, &c. The polished grey granite pillars, upon which the roof is made to rest, have a beautiful appearance. The Crown Court, which is situated at the Haymarket end of the building, is even further advanced towards completion than the Nisi Prius Court, most of the interior scaffolding being now removed, thus affording a good view of the elaborate interior decorations. The capaciousness of St. George's Hall may be estimated when we state that the height from the flooring to the ceiling, which is being decorated with carved work in plaster, is 95 feet, whilst the length is no less than 169 feet. The massy pillars of polished red granite by which it is surrounded, contrasted with the lines and fretwork of the ceiling above, says our authority, impart to the hall a character of solidity combined with grace.

Management of Competitions.—As one interested in this question, I am delighted to see in a late number the architects of Bristol exerting themselves to amend the system so long complained of. Mr. Fripp invites your readers to make their comments on the code of propositions issued by the society he represents. May I be permitted to object to proposition No. 3, which defers the final settlement of a competition till the completion of the contract drawings, specification, and quantities, and the delivery of the builders' tenders. It seems to myself that the latter part of proposition No. 8 provides every reasonable bar to the reception of the deceptive estimates of competitors; and that proposition No. 3, as now worded, can only tend to establish an abuse lately too prevalent—that of competing architects be-dusting the eyes of the adjudicators with the low-priced hap-hazard tender of some favourite builder—a document which, to say nothing of the impossibility of fairly preparing it from a mere competition design, is really out of place in an *architectural* competition.—Y.

Survey of Birmingham.—The new survey of the town of Birmingham will be executed upon a trigonometrical basis, the triangulation for which has already commenced. Two plans will be prepared: the one, a general plan, will be plotted and drawn to a scale of 2 feet to the mile, or 220 feet to 1 inch; the detailed plan will be 10 feet to the mile, or 2 statute chains to 3 inches; the survey will include an area of 20 square miles. The general plan will afford a complete view of the whole drainage area, the main lines of sewage, as also a complete system of contoured altitudes, with fixed points of level at the intersection of all streets, roads, and other eligible sites. The detailed plan will show every house and building, the main house and back drainage, pavements, boundaries of property, water and gas works, and will be available for assessments and various other points of information. The work will occupy from two to three years in completing. The size of the general plan will be 12 feet by 10 feet; the detailed plan about 60 feet by 50 feet, the latter in sheets, and bound. The survey will be made under the direction of Mr. Pigott Smith, the town surveyor.

The Ruins of Glendalough, Ireland.—A writer in the *Athenæum* says,—There are few readers who have not heard of Glendalough, or "The Seven Churches,"—and in these locomotive days many have visited that interesting locality. For my own part, though familiar with it from childhood, I rarely revisit Ireland without spending a day among the ruins which consecrate that wild and romantic valley. Independently of their high antiquity, they are hallowed by the name of the popularly sainted Kevin, who, all allowance being made for the myth that hangs about the traditions of his deeds, undoubtedly did good Christian work in his day. During the past summer I once more visited Glendalough; and I was shocked to see how much their ruinous condition had been increased since I saw them three years before. The spoiler has here been active and unrestrained. Man, more than the knawing tooth of time, has dealt heavy blows on these sacred fanes; and, if the reports of the villagers are to be depended on, many a curiously carved stone has been carried off during midnight hours. The curiosity-monger—who knows nothing of the true archæologic spirit—has, in his unconscious barbarianism, carried away some mere dead letter of a legend which in its solemn entirety he had not the heart to understand. The Archbishop of Dublin is Bishop of Glendalough. I would remind his Grace that his predecessor is termed in the Bull of Pope Lucius III. "Episcopatus insularum," and that the see reached to the walls of the capital. Have we not a right to hope that so enlightened a prelate as Dr. Whately will do something to prevent the speedy decay of his ancient churches? Are the citizens of Dublin themselves so little interested in Glendalough that a few pounds cannot be collected and a society established to preserve the vestiges that yet remain of these old temples? Just now, they are the play-ground of the wild youths who abound in that wild glen, and the stones are hurled from the ivy-clad walls in the utter recklessness of destructive boyhood.

The Art-Union's "Seven Ages."—Mr. Holloway* has published, in quarto, a beautifully designed Text, with ornamental borders, engraved by Becker's patent process, on eight steel plates, to accompany the illustrations of the "Seven Ages" by Maclise, recently distributed to the subscribers to the Art-Union of London; and he has added eight well-known designs illustrative of the same subject, by Wilkie, Calcott, Mulready, Hilton, Collins, Chalon, Cooper, and Edwin Landseer. The text and borders are exceedingly pretty: Mulready's group very excellent. Some of the other designs (remembering by whom they are executed) ought to make the Art-Union subscribers better satisfied than ever with what is done for them. Bound with Maclise's Outlines, the collection makes a very interesting Shakspeare volume.

New Act to amend Defects in Leases.—An Act of Parliament was passed in the late session to amend an Act of the previous year for granting relief against defects in leases made under power of leasing. Some peculiar circumstances attended the passing of this statute. Last year an Act was passed declaring that the acceptance of rent under an invalid lease should be deemed a confirmation of such lease. This provision, when known, startled the profession, and immediately another Act was passed suspending its operation until June, and in the meantime the present Act was passed, by which it is provided that where there is a note in writing showing the intention to confirm an invalid lease, the acceptance of rent shall be deemed a confirmation. In cases of a reversioner, where he is able and willing to confirm a lease, his confirmation may be taken.

St. James's Church, Piccadilly.—The outside of this church is undergoing repair: the following are the tenders for the works, viz., tuck-pointing, painting, and cleaning:—

Abbott and Son	£515
Burt	477
Cooze	438

We hope it is not true that the churchwardens are going to remove the present illuminated clock face. The tower is greatly out of the upright, and, if we mistake not, gets worse and worse.

* Bedford-street, Covent-garden.

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